Reviewer's report

Title: Guillain-Barre Syndrome: Natural history and prognostic factors. Review of 106 cases.

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Reviewer: John B Winer

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a retrospective review of 106 cases of GBS admitted to a single institution which they have analysed for clinical features, electrophysiology and prognostic features. This is an interesting large scale review but is limited by the retrospective nature of the study. it is largely confirmatory of previous studies but advocates peak Flow measurements as a useful predictive factor for respiratory failure.

Major revisions

I am surprised that C jejuni serology or culture is not reported since this is a major antecedent event and has been linked to prognosis. do the authors have this data?

The authors need to refer to the previous work on prognostic factors to put their study in context.

The authors found that a low peak flow was a useful predictor of respiratory failure but do not give enough detailed data for a reader to assess this claim. Vital capacity is generally considered to be the gold standard test for detecting impaired ventilation while peak flow measures airways resistance. If ventilation fails then peak flow will eventually fall but is usually considered to be inferior to FVC in predicting ventilatory failure. The authors do not present any data to favour Peak Flow over FVC and this needs to made clear in their discussion.

Minor Revisions

Page 3 para 2 line 1 "gender" not genres

Page 3 Para 6 Some mention of the presence or absence of conduction block would be helpful, as would the number of patients with reduced sensory action potentials since this was the first neurophysiological abnormality reported in MFS.

Page 4 para 5 "genres"

Para 6 Weakness is generally considered essential for diagnosis so that I am not sure what is meant by the first line of this paragraph.

Para 7 "isn't"

The tables need a Legend to explain especially TABLE 4. I am uncertain what criteria have been used to assign to disabling.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests in this paper.